THE
U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VI. CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 23, 1927 No. 9

Why the Income Tax Must Be Retained

"When it costs a young country, with a small population such as Canada's, the huge sum of more than $162,000,000 a year (more than 45 per cent. of our annual expenditure) for the last war alone, let alone previous wars, it is time we faced this problem in earnest and endeavored to find out the real causes of war and to eliminate them. With the huge war debt and the slow rate at which it is being eliminated, the one tax which should be kept on is the income tax. Several honorable members have said the war was paid for as it proceeded. It was to this extent, that the cost of the war eventually found its way into the pockets of a very small minority of the people of this country. That wealth should be taxed today to help to pay for the war. It should not be allowed to be passed on from generation to generation, with accrued interest, when the wealth is there for us to tax."—H. E. Spencer, M.P., in the Budget debate at Ottawa.

University Week for Farm Young People, June 8th to 14th Inclusive

Senior Committee on Junior Work Requests All Locals to Contribute $5.00 to Junior Conference Fund

Preparations are being made by the Department of Extension of the University of Alberta for the Ninth Annual Conference for Farm Young People. The dates for the Conference this year are from June 8th to 14th, inclusive. The program begins on the 8th, and it is therefore necessary that delegates should arrive the previous day. Any farm young person, either boy or girl, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, may attend. The program and cost of attendance for the week are outlined in a pamphlet which has been sent to all Locals.

It is our earnest desire to make it possible for every farm boy or girl who is interested to take advantage of this valuable experience and we are sure the organization as a whole will lend its support. With the co-operation of our Locals we hope to be able to defray the railway fares of every one of our delegates. Surely we can engage in no more worthy activity than that of furnishing our young people with an experience which cannot fail to give them a new vision of life and service. Any boy or girl who wishes to attend at his or her own expense can do so, but will not have voting privileges at the business session unless Conference decides to grant this privilege.

PLAN ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE

Following is the plan adopted by the Central Executive to assist our boys and girls to attend the Conference:

1. Every Local is requested to contribute at least $5.00 to the Junior Conference Fund, whether it is sending delegates or not.

2. Every Local sending delegates will be required to contribute not less than $5.00 per delegate.

3. If the Junior Conference Fund is sufficient, the railway fares of all delegates will be paid out of the Fund. If the Fund is insufficient to pay the total railway fare, the amount subscribed will be pro-rated among all the delegates.

We feel sure those Locals who have no young people within the age limit (16-25) will be glad of the opportunity to share in this investment in the future of rural Alberta. This is one of the most vital and far-reaching projects our organization has undertaken.

Send in to Central Office, Loughheed Building, Calgary, all contributions and names of all young people who wish to attend the Conference. On receipt of your contribution we will forward you credential certificate, which must be filled in and given by the delegate to the registrar on arrival at the University. These certificates will entitle the delegates to their rebate on railway fare. At the same time write the University of Alberta, Edmonton, giving them the names of your delegates on the form provided, or on a separate sheet of paper, giving the information required. It will be noted that the University requests a $1.00 registration fee which will later be deducted from the board.

We confidently anticipate an early contribution from you, accompanied by the names of your delegates. We would also ask that names of delegates be registered at the University as early as possible. The University does not feel justified in holding the Conference unless at least 75 delegates make application. Therefore it is important that delegates' names should be sent in early, as delay interferes with the completion of plans for the week and might result in its cancellation.

Yours fraternally,
SENIOR COMMITTEE ON JUNIOR WORK,
H. E. G. M. Schofield.
Mrs. R. B. Gunn.
Mrs. Warr.

Appeals for Support St. Albert Fund

Glen Storie Urges Whole Membership to Assist—Clean Elections the Issue

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

Judging from the reported result of the St. Albert appeal for help to defray the expense of the election protest, as reported through "The U. F. A.", it has not been responded to very well as yet.

Mr. Normandeau put up a fight for clean election campaigns, and although he lost on the appeal I think he was right in putting up a fight, and I think he should get all the help the members of the U. F. A. can give him in paying the expense. If every member gives a little it will not be a burden on anyone.

Mr. Normandeau has been a U. F. A. and Pool worker for a long time and is still on the job. He has organized a U. F. A. Local at Lamoureux recently, with 16 paid-up members, and is taking on some organization work in St. Albert district. Mr. Normandeau stood for a U. F. A. nomination in Athabasca in 1925 and lost the convention by one vote. He immediately moved a motion to make the convention unanimous in favor of the leading candidate, and got out and worked for his election.

In the Provincial election last summer he got the U. F. A. nomination in St. Albert and carried on an honest campaign in a four-cornered fight but did not get elected.

And he is still working for the U.F.A. and according to his own words, will continue to do so.

GLEN STORIE.

N. Edmonton, Alta.

MR. WOOD AT VANCOUVER

(Edmonton Journal)

"We are both Western and we are neighbors," H. W. Wood told the Vancouver Board of Trade on Tuesday, and there should accordingly be no antagonism between the port of that city and the Alberta Wheat Pool, as head of which he was speaking. The address was in his best vein and the impression that it quite evidently made will be readily understood. Not only did he state succinctly the Pool's position with respect to Vancouver shipments, but the objects and policies of the co-operative marketing organization were defined with the greatest clearness. It is desirable that there should be no misunderstanding, either at the coast city or anywhere else, with regard to the matters that were dealt with, and the utterance must prove an enlightening one to all who heard it or who read the newspaper accounts of it.

The Pool is bound to consider first of all the interests of its signatories in the handling of its business. But it wants to see the port of Vancouver develop and there should be, as Mr. Wood declared, some sentimentality behind the relations between the two. If mutual sympathy were manifest, co-operation was possible that would be profitable to both, and efforts on the part of either to exploit the other could only do harm. The contribution that the Pool has already made to the upbuilding of the port was shown to be a large one, and the reasons why the shipments during the present season have not been on the scale that was hoped for at its commencement were set forth in detail.

The crop was late, ocean rates were high and British millers wanted quick deliveries and were willing to pay a premium on these through Atlantic ports. In addition there was a falling off of the trade with the Orient. All these factors operated against Vancouver in recent months, but an improvement in the Western traffic is now apparent. To date more than half of the wheat going out through Vancouver has come from the Pool and between 60 and 70 per cent. of that through Vancouver and Prince Rupert combined.

The farmers of this Province are well aware of the advantages of the Western route. They have from the first been anxious that everything possible should be done to develop it. In common with all other Albertans they recognize how much our Provincial future is bound up with the growth in the traffic through Pacific ports. Because temporary conditions have interfered with it, there is no occasion for accusing them of indifference to the welfare of the route. Mr. Wood's address should put an end to any feeling that this exists.

His presentation of the case for co-operative wheat marketing was a very strong one and must win new sympathy for the enterprise, the expansion of which he outlined along with the benefits that the participants had derived from it. Especial attention is due his statement that the Pool has no fight to make against the Grain Trade, except so far as this is necessary in self-defence. From the start the Alberta Pool officials had, he pointed out, recognized the property rights of those who had made investments under the existing system and it was always their desire to work out readjustments with as little injury as possible, to all concerned.

ST. ALBERT APPEAL FUND

Previously acknowledged	$42.50
March 10th—Louise Lake U. F. A. 521	1.50
March 15th—Glen Storie, N. Edmonton	2.00
March 18th—Sunset Valley U. F. A. 963	5.00
March 23rd—Crerar U. F. A. 921	5.00
	$56.00

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EDITORIAL

THE ALBERTA BUDGET

An estimated surplus for the new financial year, the paring down of new capital expenditure to a figure substantially below the total for the preceding year, and plans for continued economy in the various departments are revealed in the budget statement presented in the Legislative Assembly last week by Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer.

The statement also shows that the reduction in the yield of supplementary revenue taxation, owing to the new equalized assessment, exceeds the amount of the additional revenue to be raised from the increased and new taxation. Almost, all if not every one of the daily papers, in editorial comment upon the budget, have failed to dwell upon this important fact. But with this fact omitted an erroneous impression is conveyed to newspaper readers, of the actual significance of the budget statement.

A careful examination of the figures shows that in spite of present handicaps, real progress is being made towards the solution of the difficult financial problems with which Alberta has been saddled since the years when lavish expenditure and the reckless piling up of new capital indebtedness were the fashion.

Of the increased expenditures of $530,640.31 for the calendar year of 1927, public debt, which is uncontrollable, accounts for no less than $413,342.21. It is evident, therefore, that with controllable expenditures reduced to a minimum, uncontrollable expenditure remains a formidable item.

Mr. Reid pointed out that whereas Saskatchewan, with a total bonded debt of $57,104,641, has made appropriations for sinking fund of only $271,109 for the years 1922 to 1926 inclusive, Alberta, with a total debt of $56,984,665, has placed in the sinking fund a total of $1,891,829. It is obvious that in setting aside very substantial sums each year, to the building up of the sinking fund, Alberta is following the saunder policy.

Captain Shaw, whose amendment to the budget won the support of only three Liberal members besides himself, and of no other member of the Assembly, discussed in an elaborate way the figures presented by the Provincial Treasurer, and called attention to certain important and very obvious figures. But the critic who has no suggestions to offer for the reduction of the expenditure which he demands, and has no alternative taxation proposals, cannot be taken very seriously. In the absence of constructive suggestions, Captain Shaw's amendment was an empty gesture. As the Edmonton Journal, a newspaper politically opposed to the U. F. A., rightly declared in commenting on his speech: "It was largely an indictment of the Liberal regime that the Liberal leader presented."

* * *

The Cantonese armies are not fighting fairly. Instead of concentrating their energies exclusively on the destruction of the enemy forces, they are trying, with considerable success, to use reason and propaganda to convert their opponents to the cause of Nationalism and a united China. Thus they are reducing the casualties on both sides to a minimum. This is obviously a violation of the rules of civilized warfare.

* * *

In her address before the Annual Convention, Miss Macphail stated that the Russians, at the time of the revolution, made bonfires of the old text books which taught submission to the Czarist tyranny. She went on to say that in Alberta we could bring about any necessary reforms in our educational system without such drastic methods, because there is here a Government which desires to serve the people. Yet some of the daily papers of this Province immediately launched an editorial attack upon Miss Macphail, because, they said, she had proposed to make a bonfire of all the Alberta school text-books. These attacks, based upon a completely false construction of her remarks, were not very creditable to the papers which published them. We refer our readers to the summary of Miss Macphail's address, based on the stenographic record, published in our current issue.

* * *

"When war comes, truth is the first casualty", said Rt. Hon. Arthur Ponsonby, a former British Foreign Minister, in a speech to which we recently referred. There is, officially, no state of war between the foreign powers and China, and cautious Western statesmen earnestly desire to prevent such a calamity. Yet truth in some instances has already suffered serious violence.

For instance, some weeks ago it was reported that two Roman Catholic missionaries had been stabbed and in other ways maltreated by Chinese at Hanyang. The priests themselves afterwards issued a signed denial, pointing out that the reports did not come from them, and that "our clothes and boots were not taken off, neither were we stabbed, nor were we tied to poles nor to a tree", as had been stated.

In times of crisis it is wise to treat reports of atrocities with caution.

* * *

SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN'S DIFFICULTIES

It is reported that the same group of members of the British cabinet who have been pressing a reluctant Foreign Secretary to take active military measures against the Chinese Nationalists, are equally desirous of a breach with Russia. We do not think there can be any doubt that the recent note threatening to break off diplomatic relations with Russia was the result of pressure upon Sir Austen Chamberlain, who, like Premier Baldwin, is less belligerent than some other members of the Cabinet.

An agitation for a breach was launched some time ago by Leslie Urquhart, a British citizen of great wealth and influence who before the Russian revolution controlled large mineral concessions in the Russian empire. Mr. Urquhart entered into negotiations with the revolutionary Government a few years ago, with a view to resuming the control of these concessions under certain restrictions. For a time it appeared probable that the negotiations would succeed. During that period Urquhart was pro-Russian, eager to see full trade relations established. But the negotiations broke down, and Mr.

(Continued on page 7)

Budget Debate Opens in Alberta Legislative Assembly—Shaw Amendment Defeated

Only Four Votes Cast in Favor of Liberal Leader's Amendment — Weaver Refuses to Be Associated With Demand for Taxation Reduction Under Present Conditions

Staff Correspondence

While much progress was made in the advancement of the sessional program of legislation, the principal event of the past week in the Assembly was the presentation of the budget, on March 15th, by Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer. Captain J. T. Shaw followed the Provincial Treasurer, and moved an amendment which was defeated by a vote of 44 to 4. U. F. A., Labor and Conservative members who participated in the debate offered vigorous criticism of the Shaw amendment. Hon. George Hoadley spoke on Friday, and the debate will be continued during the present week.

Noxious Weed Act Changes Accepted by the Legislature

Clause Objected to Is Redrafted by Minister—Amendments to Insurance Act

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 14.—Monday afternoon was very quiet in the Legislature, bills in Committee of the Whole House occupying the entire day.

A bill to consolidate the Wills Act was reported out of committee. A bill to incorporate the Hebrew School at Calgary was also passed through committee, with the clauses giving tax exemption to the school being struck out. The City can grant such concessions if it so chooses under the city charter.

A bill dealing with the assignment of book debts, providing for new machinery with regard to such assignments to replace the provisions for this purpose at present in the Bills of Sale Act, was also put through Committee of the Whole.

AMENDMENT OF IRRIGATION ACT

The bill to amend the Irrigation Act was dealt with. Discussion arose out of the clauses dealing with the claim of any person for damages on account of land being injured by the seepage or overflow of water. This clause provides that the claimant shall first take the matter up with the local board, and it shall then be referred to the Council; failing an agreement the claim shall be forwarded to the Board of Public Utilities for decision, and that board is vested with power to decide what action shall be taken. L. A. Giroux, Grouard, backed by Col. Weaver, Edmonton, took the stand that there should be provision made for the right of appeal by the claimant from the decision of the Public Utilities Board. After some discussion it was decided to hold the clauses in abeyance until D. M. Duggan's bill dealing with the Public Utilities Board has been dealt with by the Assembly.

NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT AGAIN DISCUSSED

The Noxious Weeds Act as reconstructed since Friday last was the subject of another debate. The offending clause putting perennial sow thistle, Canada thistle and blue lettuce in Class A. had been redrafted and only perennial sow thistle was included in the new clause. W. G. Farquharson, Bibstone (U. F. A.), moved that Canada thistle be also included. W. H. Shield, Macleod (U. F. A.), offered determined opposition to this, and thought that if the Department would concentrate on perennial thistle for this year that would be sufficient. The Department would find it impossible, he thought, to handle all the appeals which would arise this year from the enforcement. He thought, also, that elimination of weeds, rather than just the destruction of them was what should be aimed at, and that was not possible through the application of law. It had been his experience that when farmers secured good economic returns from their crops, their farming methods improved, with the result that the weed problem depended more for its solution on improved farming conditions rather than the arbitrary destruction of growing crops entailing heavy loss to the individual.

M. J. Connor, Warner (U. F. A.), thought it possible to eradicate Canada sow thistle in one season, as in his district it grew in isolated patches. It would be necessary in extreme cases only to destroy small portions of infested fields.

Pete Enzenauer, Victoria (U. F. A.), said it was presumptuous for the Legislature to lay down farming methods for a group of people who did the farming. Good farming depended on the individual, and he also believed that the ebb and flow of economic conditions determined whether farming would be good, bad or indifferent.

NEW CLAUSES OF ACT

After the Minister, Mr. Hoadley, had made further explanations, it was decided to let the new clauses remain as redrafted, no amendments being agreed to. The new clause covering the destruction of Class A weeds provides that no inspector shall give an order for the destruction of a weed infested crop until he has notified the field crops commissioner and secured his consent, and in the case of an inspector appointed by a municipality, no destruction without the consent of the reeve of the municipality, will be permitted.

TRANSFER PROFITS TO GENERAL REVENUE

Two bills dealing with the transfer of profits in two branches of service, were also passed through committee. The first was a proposal to transfer on a certain date the profits accruing from the sale of textbooks to the general revenue. Perren Baker, Minister of Education, explained that at the end of December, 1925, there was a surplus of $7,872.21; and at the end of 1926 there was a sum of $5,213.31. In reply to Mr. Gibbs' question as to whether this surplus was the result of having spent less than the appropriation or whether this sum was actual profit, the Minister stated that it was the latter, and stated further that the cost to school districts would be lessened and this sum would be rather less in future.

The second of the two bills was to perform the same function as the first with regard to accumulations in the King's Printers' Department. These amounted to around $22,195.

The Highways Amendment Bill to regulate and license billboards within a certain distance of public highways was also dealt with. At the evening session discussion of the Coroners Act was continued in committee, and the Alberta Insurance Act amendments took some time of the Assembly.

INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS IN BRIEF

The Insurance Act amendments provide, among other things that the authority of the Superintendent to inspect the books of an insurer is extended, to the inspection of the books of an agent; that a fraternal society need not keep a deposit except when required by the Minister.

A clause is drafted with a view to eliminating the tendency to over-insure, and to provide penalties where over-insurance has knowingly been effected, either by an agent or by an insured person.

The amendments further provide for the return of excess premium paid when the loss is less than the total face values of existing contracts.

In the case of life insurance, accident and sickness insurance, and automobile insurance, applications for insurance must be obtained. This amendment extends this provision to fire insurance.

Finance or acceptance corporations, automobile dealers and insurance agents are prohibited from signing applications for insurance on behalf of the applicant.

The amendment of an insurance contract of automobiles when other automobiles are to be covered by the insurance is provided for.

Insurers (hail insurance) shall file with the Superintendent, the rates of premium to be charged in each township; and when a rate has been reduced, the reduced rate shall be applicable to all other contracts and the insurer shall return the excess over the lower rate.

Other sections provide that the endorsement upon the policy (hail insurance) of the material parts of the application, rather than the whole of it; for the payment of a license fee by applicants for a reciprocal exchange license; that a member of a duly licensed

fraternal society may, without a license, solicit members of the society to insure with the society; for an investigation by the Superintendent of charges of discrimination in favor of a particular agent, and that when such discrimination is established, every agent shall be entitled to the same commission as that paid to the agent in favor of whom discrimination was made;

Under the existing law, special brokerage licenses expire one year after the date of issue. The amendment provides that all licenses shall expire on the same day, namely, on the thirty-first day of December.

The Dairymen's Act amendments were discussed for some time, but the bill was held over for recommittal to one of the standing committees.

Bill for Regulation of Public Vehicles Is Under Debate

New Minister of Public Works Forcefully Defends Proposed Regulations Against Liberal and Conservative Criticism

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 15.—O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works, received his first real baptism of fire as a Minister when his bill to regulate and license public vehicles and highways came into the committee of the whole today. When a sub-section of Clause 4, which provides that the Government may from time to time "grant by permit to one or more persons the exclusive right to operate a public vehicle upon any highway or highways which may be by him specified and described, and fix the fee to be paid for every such permit," a storm of protest was raised by members in all sides of the House against the term "exclusive."

DECLARES CLAUSE IS DISCRIMINATORY

Leader McGillivray set the arguments in motion by stating that the principle was one to which the Assembly should not give ready acquiescence, as by doing so they would be once more entering on a class of legislation which was discriminatory. He contended that all the people who were paying taxes for the various functions of government were entitled to equal rights on the highways, and that all the Minister should be empowered to do should be to exercise control of public vehicles in such a way as to safeguard the public as to service, equipment and rates.

George Webster, Calgary (Liberal), concurred. He agreed that the Minister should have full power to control speed, weight and the number of passengers, but he thought that the right to grant exclusive permits was too much power to be vested in a Minister. He wanted it given only to the Legislature.

MINISTER ANSWERS CRITICISMS

After a number of others had taken a hand in the debate, the Minister answered the arguments advanced by the different speakers. He used Mr. McGillivray's contention that the Minister should have power to control and regulate in the public interest the class of vehicles referred to by the bill. He explained that the ordinary taxi, hired exclusively for one passenger or one party of passengers, did not come within the scope of the bill, but only vehicles which carried passengers from place to place as a public carrier.

The argument for equal rights advanced by Mr. McGillivray was the real reason for the introduction of the bill, but the people who used services of such nature were the people to have equal rights secured to them. Cases would arise when it would be in the public interest to restrict the number of vehicles on certain public highways to just the number necessary to insure good and continuous service, safe equipment and fair rates. The latter would be determined from time to time by the Public Utilities Board. Accepting Mr. Webster's criticism of the power of the Minister in the spirit of fairness, he showed that it would be impossible for the Legislature to administer this act.

PRINCIPLE NOT A NEW ONE

The principle of the exclusive permit was not new. Ontario, after changing their law many times to suit and better conditions, had finally come to include powers fully as wide as the Alberta act. He read from their act, quoting the words "special, exclusive or limited" to show that it went farther than the Alberta act in the use of the exclusive feature. In Quebec and Nova Scotia and in many of the States where traffic of this nature existed it had been found necessary to have powers of this kind to protect the public. He instanced cases which might arise on routes where the traffic would just be sufficient for one vehicle. Should such a case arise, and there were no powers such as that asked for, if a person or company decided to put in a continuous service between points on that route and after having provided equipment, at the peak season of the year other vehicles should enter into competition, afterwards withdrawing when the pressure lifted, an injustice would be done the public as well as the party endeavoring to provide efficient continuous service. The rates could not be boosted, because the Board of Public Utilities would regulate them from time to time, and a further consideration would be that they could not be stressed much beyond those obtainable on railways. What the Province wanted to do was to see that such vehicles were properly controlled, that they paid a fair share of the expenditures on roads, that they furnished a safe and efficient standard of equipment, and that rates were maintained on a fair level. This could not be done without the power to restrain at times the number of vehicles permitted to operate on certain highways. Inadequate cheap equipment should not be allowed to interfere with good continuous service at peak times, as that would make it hard for any operator desiring to give steady efficient and safe service to function.

Mr. McPherson was surprised that the member from Calgary, after criticising the word "exclusive" should go on to argue that the Minister should be granted powers to "refuse" a permit or "revoke" one. That was exactly the power they were trying to obtain.

RECALLS DAYS OF GEORGE STEPHENSON

W. H. Shield, Macleod (U. F. A.), raised a smile when he said that the actions of the members that day reminded him of the time when George Stephenson had presented the case for the steam railway before the British House of Commons. The principle of this bill dealt with a type of transportation which was in its initial stage, and the arguments of members reminded him forcibly of those used on that historic occasion. Probably in days to come these arguments of opponents would appear to be as absurd as were those of the former day. In regulating this type of service he thought they should be guided by the experience of those Provinces and States which had made a beginning in this traffic. The public had to provide the roadbed, and the Minister as the administrator of public business, should be granted the power asked for in the bill.

Messrs. Shaw, Christophers and Webster stoutly maintained opposition to the clause, while Lymburn, Brownlee, Gibbs and White, the latter with reservations, spoke in favor. The debate was of a high type, and the Assembly finally disposed of it by supporting the clauses of the bill without amendment. A number of other bills were dealt with in committee, none being of a contentious nature.

Towns and Village Acts Discussed by the Legislature

Labor Amendment to Remove Discrimination Against Papers Not Published in Canada Is Carried in Committee

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 16.—Six o'clock rule was waived on Wednesday in order to advance routine business, and the legislators worked hard to grind out two measures of importance, the Village Act and the Towns Act. Prior to going into committee of the whole, on Mr. Boudreau's motion of confidence in R. A. Smith, late Deputy-Attorney General, being called, Speaker Johnston ruled the motion out of order on the ground that no motion was debatable when the principal or principals were concerned in litigation, and as a certain case in which the principal was concerned was sub judice, the motion was not in order.

Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley (Liberal), proceeded to debate the Speaker's ruling, but was informed that no debate was permissible on a Speaker's ruling, but that he could appeal to the Assembly from that ruling. Mr. Shaw declined to take that course.

The Village Act was then dealt with in committee of the whole. The first contested clause was one granting tax exemption to religious organizations for church purposes covering one-half acre. Mr. Giroux considered that it should be changed to one acre. The Minister agreed to take it into consideration.

Before passing any bylaw under this new act it will be necessary to take the matter up with the Public Utilities Board.

REMOVE DISCRIMINATION FROM THE BILL

During consideration of the Town Act, there was some discussion on the portion bearing on the interpretation of the word "hawker." This would not include, among other things, anyone selling newspapers or periodicals published

(Continued on page 17)

Education as the Basis of the New Social Life

A Report of the Address of Miss Agnes Macphail, M. P., at the U. F. A. Annual Convention

Immediate action to introduce the teaching of the philosophy and practice of co-operation in the schools was advocated by Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., in the course of an address before the last Annual Convention of the U. F. A.

Miss Macphail also proposed the setting up of an enquiry into the best modern methods in education as practiced in various other countries, and the modification of our own educational system in the light of the information obtained. While she realized that in respect to many questions, the appointment of commissions might be overdone, she pointed out that it would be impossible for the whole Government to go to Denmark and England and the United States and Russia. An inquiry could be carried on most efficiently by a body of about three persons. "When that commission comes back," she said, "do what is so seldom done with a commission's report—act on it."

RECEIVES ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME

Miss Macphail's address was one of the outstanding features of the Convention. In view of her courageous and devoted services to the farm people, and to the masses of the people of Canada of all classes, she was assured in advance of a good reception from the delegates. Her originality, ability, and her unmistakable sincerity in devotion to the cause of the people on the farms won an immediate and enthusiastic response from the Convention. The fact that she was attacked in a series of editorials based upon a completely false version of a portion of her speech, in at least one of the daily papers of the Province, has served to increase the interest of the farm people in the policies which she actually advocated. The Convention directed that a copy of Miss Macphail's address should be printed for distribution, and this, when available, will provide an adequate answer to press misrepresentations.

Miss Macphail was introduced by E. J. Garland, M. P., the chairman of the evening, as "The Little Sister of the U.F.A. group at Ottawa."

THE FULFILMENT OF A DREAM

"It is to me the fulfilment of a dream to be here tonight," she said. "I have wanted for a long time to visit the U. F. A. Convention, for Alberta is the spearhead of the United Farmers' movement. You know in olden times the wise men came from the East, but now the wise men come from the West. Alberta has become very dear to me because of the kind of men you send to form the U. F. A. group at Ottawa. I am sure you won't mind my saying I am very fond of them. They are not all the same, but all of them treated me well.

"Alberta leads the way. Alberta first discovered the organization of the industrial group—education through the industrial group economic advancement through co-operation and the safeguarding of agricultural interests through the economic group going to Parliament and the different Legislatures. It is true that small groups in other Provinces were thinking the same thoughts at about the same time but not in bodies large enough to make them effective.....

"The hope of the agriculturists of Canada rests in what you people in Alberta will do, and I have no doubt of what you will do. You are a purely agricultural Province. The construction of a new social order has a better chance of being worked out by agriculturists than by any other group in Canada. The industrial workers are all scattered and not so free,..... and so I think it is not too much to say that the future of Canada, the building of a better Canada, rests almost, though not quite wholly, in the hands of the agriculturists of the Dominion."

LESS TROUBLE "IF FARMERS STAYED AT HOME"

Briefly alluding to the work which can be accomplished in the legislative field, Miss Macphail quoted the remark of one of the party members of the House at Ottawa, who during a discussion of the immigration problem declared that "there would not be all this trouble if these farmers would stay at home where they belong." She then passed on to deal with the main subject of her address—the possibilities of reform through education. In the farm organization in Ontario the best educational work was being done through the women's and young people's organizations.

"It is not right," the speaker continued, "that this education which we so much need to better our industry—to give it the place in the national life that it should have—should come from our own organization alone. You know that the schools can change the thought of any country in one generation. We all know how peaceful Germany was made warlike through the influence of the schools of Bismarck; how backward Denmark was transformed by the new spirit of the schools."

EDUCATION DIVORCED FROM LIFE

Miss Macphail went on to say that as she had taught school in Alberta for six months, she knew something about our educational system, and she had taught in Ontario for seven years. She believed that the present system was deficient in that it was to a large extent divorced from life. The child was taught to absorb facts which were possibly not essential to life.

"I do think," added the speaker, "that education should prepare a child to understand its environment and to know how to improve that environment, and I think that our public school educational systems do not do that at all.

"Does our public school system today develop initiative on the part of the pupils? Does it make your child a better thinker than he was before he went to school? Does it lead him out and make him a better worker in groups? Does it inspire him to serve humanity? You know the answer. It does not. I don't think we have anything in Canada so infested with dry rot as the educational system of the nine Provinces." Through her contact with various international organizations—one of them an international bureau of education at Geneva—she knew that the problem of creating a satisfactory educational system was not confined to Canada.

CONTROL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Expressing her belief that agriculture has in itself a sufficient cultural value to form the basis for a complete life, but that unfortunately it had been in a large degree an imitation of urban life, Miss Macphail said she wished country boys and girls to be exceedingly well educated, but did not want them to be educated away from their industry. She wished their education to be a benefit to the communities in which they lived. It was too often true that people who had benefited from the competitive social system out of which we were passing were the very people who were in control of boards of governors of the universities, and in control of the educational system as a whole. They saw to it that the gospel of conformity was preached. They taught the gospel of: "What is, is right; change is wrong, dangerous, red." In many of our great schools "teachers who think are either gently led away from thought by remunerative positions, or else gotten rid of. They are dangerous to old systems and old forms."

THE FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS OF DENMARK

For many years the speaker had been reading all that she could about educational systems that had built up rural life. Denmark, she discovered, had formerly had a system that was worse than ours, but had built up, very slowly, new schools, including Folk High Schools in which students between 18 and 30 years of age were taught "from a world point of view, universal history, philosophy, literature, song and gymnastics, and so successfully taught that they go out into life and give the very best that is in them to life, and serve to the limit of their ability." Since these were agricultural boys and girls and young men and young women, the result had been that from them had come the great leaders of co-operation, of agricultural life in the little state of Denmark—"a state, by the way, where everybody is more prosperous than when the new system of education was instituted."

"I was very much interested lately," said Miss Macphail—"I hope you won't be too shocked—in reading a rather full account of Russia's attempt to evolve a new system of education, in a book entitled 'Education in Soviet Russia' by Scott Nearing. It was true in Russia before the revolution that everybody who thought too much went to Siberia, where it isn't too warm. You people would be quite at home there, I judge (laughter). Their schools emphasized much more than ours the text books and the gospel of conformity."

APPLYING NEW PRINCIPLE IN RUSSIA

When the people got rid of the Cour-

ist ruling class, they determined to get rid of the machinery which had kept that class in control, and "so the first thing they did was to have a very excellent bonfire which ended the text books, and they started an entirely new system—with great difficulty, remember, because they had the old teachers who were trained in the old system." In the new system they tried to interpret to the child his surroundings; the home and the family, the division of work, and the need of the division. From the life of the community and nature about them the material is drawn. A special effort is made to develop initiative and t have children work out problems in groups. Group activity is very much stressed.

NOTHING SO DRASTIC NEEDED HERE

Miss Macphail added: "I do not for a moment advise you to do anything so drastic as that. You have here a Minister of Education and a Department that want to serve the people. You have a Government that have shown that they are honest and sincere, and that they are striving to give you the best that is in them."

One of the most difficult problems facing civilization today, said Miss Macphail is to devise some means of inducing the youth, or a portion of the youth, to stay on the land and to make of agriculture a better calling, giving a higher reward in dollars and cents, a higher standard of living, a satisfactory intellectual life.

To this end, it was desirable to realize, first, that the object in education is the child, and not the system. The child should be trained in such a way that when grown he would be able to mould institutions to suit his needs, to think and act upon his own thought.

Secondly, social education should always prepare the child to function in his present surroundings, always looking towards the improvement of those surroundings. Thirdly, education should enlarge the child's vision, and fourthly, it should give the student a world outlook.

"I wish you could hear some of the ten-cent, tin-can jingoism that is being taught to children today," the speaker continued. "We should always love our country—that will make us better citizens. Just as loving our home makes us better community workers—but the stuff that passes for patriotism will have to go by the board if the world is to go on, because the purpose of economic activity is to create wealth and the sole purpose of war is to destroy it. The two are absolutely in conflict with one another, and civilization must choose between the two. What is the use of building up and then blowing up? It is so exhausting.

ARE CHILDREN TOLD OF WAR'S CAUSES?

"There are causes of international conflict. There is the struggle for markets, for trade, for investment opportunities, for natural resources; there are the armament trusts; and there is a war psychology. All these things cause war. Are children really being taught in schools that there are distinct causes, and that if we move forward intelligently we can remove these causes? .....We see in other things that through higher civilization we are learning to solve problems with the resources of our mind and spirit. Then why do we not call on these resources to settle these international problems? Youth will, if you give it a chance. If we who are older and have learned by bitter experience that some of the things we thought were true in our youth were not true, would pass that knowledge on, we would make a contribution to the generation that is coming after us. Are we willing to do it? I think we must all be glad to be alive today; we must all feel that we are living in a wonderful age.....If we are going to live worthily we must make very rapid mental adjustments, and we must make them consciously.....

LIFE A SPLENDID ADVENTURE

"Life today is a splendid adventure. That does not mean that it is easy. It has tremendous difficulties, but it has wonderful opportunities, and I would think that life today would inspire everybody to give life the very best that is in him. Agriculture challenges our best effort that we may make it an industry respected and honored throughout this world.

"We must make fundamental changes in education; changes that I have indicated so badly tonight; and if we do that we will be able to help to do that most beautiful of all things, paint the glowing dawn for coming generations."

THINKS FARMERS UNFAIR

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

I have just been reading in your paper, of what you consider the enemies of the Farmer Government and Farm Pools.

I would like to say that in my opinion the most dangerous enemy of the Farmer Government is its own discrimination in dealing with other members of society.

If there had not been unfairness in dealing with the farmers there would likely never have been a Farmer Government or a Progressive Party and it is an accepted fact that no Government can long remain in power that will allow one class or group of people to enjoy privileges that are denied to others, and here is where I believe the Farmer Government are showing a weakness that if continued will undoubtedly lessen their power as a political party.

A large number of farmers have the idea that if a person is not a farmer, there must be something wrong with him; no matter what trade profession, or calling this person may have, it cannot be so important as farming, and that this person should not be given the same privileges as the farmer.

This idea of political privilege for the farmer was carried out in Ottawa. When the Progressives held the balance of power, they obtained a refund of duty on lighting plants, etc., when used for farmers only, and now a city or village resident pays 20 per cent. more to buy a lighting plant than his farmer brother.

Just now the Provincial Telephone Department are asking the village and town residents to pay an unequal share of the telephone rates, and are losing the confidence of a good many customers and prospective customers.

The Farmer Government professes to desire to co-operate with Labor, but if a Labor bill is introduced in Edmonton, what happens to it? If there are any clauses that will in any way affect the farmer or his creameries, or elevators, it is carefully clipped out. They are very desirous of giving the laboring man a living wage, so long as he does not happen to be working for a farmer or some of his organizations.

I have watched with satisfaction the growth of the Farmers in politics and in business, but I feel sure that unless they can deal more equally with other members of society, their political power will not last.

Yours very truly,

L. B. FISHER,

(Wheat Pool Member No. 31654).

Alix, Alta.

CATTLE BREEDERS' ANNUAL SALE MARCH 29TH TO APRIL 1ST

The Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association will hold their annual auction sale, at which 664 bulls will be offered, in conjunction with the Horse Show and Fat Stock Show to be held in Calgary, March 29th to April 1st inclusive.

HAVE PROGRAM FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

"Experiences of an Old-timer", "Why we organized", "What we have done and what we hope to do", "Women and World Peace", "Co-operation between parents and teachers", "Fruits", are some of the topics of valuable papers read at the monthly meetings of Windy Hill Local. This Local offered a prize for the best essay on "Why I want to make my home on the farm", open to pupils in grades 8 and 9, which was won by Alice Ballard. Several whist drives were held during the year, as well as a three-day dressmaking demonstration and a bazaar. The July meeting took the form of an all-day sewing bee, when a total of 57 garments were made as a donation to the Woods' Orphan Home.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)

Urquhart's attitude changed. Recently he urged the shareholders of his company to bombard all members of Parliament with post cards demanding that diplomatic relations be broken off. He was responsible for an extensive agitation in many powerful quarters.

There are many points at issue between the British and Russian Governments. With many of these the press despatches deal. But it is well to remember that the British Foreign Minister himself has been actively opposed to a breach; that several active agitators for a breach are less concerned about propagandas than they are about economic concessions, and that they are supported by mischief makers in the British Cabinet who are today a powerful minority.

No sane citizen of any part of the British Empire who has any recollection of the last war or any realization of the horrors which lie in store in the next, can sympathize with the wild men who are willing lightly to enter upon military adventures the end of which no man can foresee.

ALBERTA HAY FOR CHINA

Approximately 200 tons of alfalfa from the Lethbridge district has been ordered by the British Government for shipment to China. The hay is being supplied by the Southern Alberta Co-operative Association.

Provincial Treasurer Estimates Surplus of $26,178.49 for Year 1927

Change in Fiscal Year Necessitates Division of Budget Into Two Parts, and Total Surplus to March 31st, 1928, is Estimated at $46,889.42—Tax on Gasoline Raised and Tax on Pari-Mutuels Adopted—Reduction of Supplementary Tax Revenue Is Greater Than Tax Increase

Staff Correspondence

The budget brought down on March 15th by the Provincial Treasurer, R. G. Reid, forecasts another surplus at the close of the next financial year. The new fiscal year approved of by the Legislature necessitated the bringing in of the estimates in two parts, the first dealing with the period up until December, 1927, and the second with that up to March 31st, 1928. The total estimated surplus is placed at $46,889.42.

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE HEAVIER

Heavier expenditures are anticipated for 1927, the total being set at $389,540.21. Uncontrollable items, such as the Public Debt, account for $113,342.21, while controllable increases are mainly caused through larger appropriations for Education, Municipal Affairs, and Mothers' Allowances. Savings are expected to take place in considerable measure in a number of branches, chief of which are the Executive Council and Public Works. The former will make a saving of $148,022.65 on account of the fact that there are no provisions this year for an election.

Increased revenue is anticipated, and while the Dominion subsidy will be lessened, other sources of revenue are outlined. There are new taxes on furs, fur farm permits, and a pari-mutuel tax, which is expected to net $100,000, being based at 5 per cent. of the receipts; there is an increase in the gasoline tax of 1c per gallon, and travelling clinics, the maintenance receipts of the Alberta sanitorium, Public Works, and the Treasury Department show estimated increases, the last named on account of the growth of interest and profit on Provincial investments.

After making a broad survey of the economic progress of the Province Mr. Reid said that the development of the last few years had inspired the people to greater effort within the Province and it had brought the Province more prominently before the outside world as a people who were fortunate in their environment and who were taking advantage of their natural opportunities. The Minister said that he was gratified not only to be able to announce a balanced budget, but that the year's operations in the Province generally had been attended with a considerable degree of success.

WOULD EAT CAKE AND HAVE IT TOO

After dealing with the estimates for the present fiscal period, Mr. Reid said it was strange to hear people advocating first, that we should reduce the public debt; second, that we should reduce taxes; and third, that we should increase expenditures. "Let anyone apply these three principles simultaneously to his private affairs, and we know to what it would bring him—and that very quickly. Odd as it may seem, some people today think that Governments are not controlled by the same inexorable laws as pertain to commercial life, and that in some occult way a Government may collect less money, spend more money and at the same time reduce debt."

TAXATION LOW PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Reid also pointed out that from the latest figures compiled by the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, the percentage taxation bears to production in the Province of Alberta in recent years is less than in any Province west of Quebec, notwithstanding the large calls that have been made on the Government on account of inherited obligations, among which the railways were outstanding.

"Here", went on the Minister, "we have a Provincial Government assuming and carrying a burden that is purely Federal. This load is becoming so onerous that it is interfering with the legitimate development of the Province in other directions. It should therefore be apparent to the Government of Canada that some relief should be forthcoming."

The Provincial Treasurer pointed out that the loss of revenue because of the new assessment of the Province was for some reason not properly understood by the people. There had been a reduction through the new equalized assessment of over 30 per cent. and as there had been no change in the mill rate which is levied under the Supplementary Revenue Tax Act, it should be clear that there will be a potential reduction in the revenue from that source to the extent of 30 per cent. The old assessment, placed at $725,896,635 at 2 mills, earned an annual revenue of $1,451,775. The new assessment of 1926 totals $505,205,940, with a corresponding yield of $1,010,410, from which it could be seen that this translated itself into a reduction in taxation in one year amounting to $441,365. **This loss was more than the increases proposed from other sources.**

GONE FURTHER THAN OTHERS

"There is an area in the south," said the Minister, "where assessments have been reduced about 30 per cent., apparently a fairly tangible reduction, and yet in the face of all this we are being criticized for not making reductions in this tax similar to those being made elsewhere, when the fact is that we have gone farther than is proposed in any of the other Western Provinces."

At the conclusion of Mr. Reid's speech Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, adjourned the debate, which will be resumed on Thursday. Meantime the House took up routine work.

HON. R. G. REID

MR. REID'S SPEECH

Mr. Reid's speech, in part, follows:

The crop year of 1926 was like the preceding one in many respects. In most districts of the Province more than the average crop was harvested, but the unfavorable weather during the period of threshing resulted in greatly lowering the grade. The year as a whole, however, has not been one to complain about, and since our cultivated area is widespread, there were portions of the Province that upheld the usual reputation of Alberta not only for high yields, but for the highest quality of grain. This applies particularly to the more northerly districts, and every year that passes demonstrates the possibility of extension of the profitable grain-raising areas in this direction.

Two successive seasons of more than average yield of agricultural products have had a much needed effect on the financial standing of the people of the Province, and while the prices in 1926 were somewhat less than the previous year's for all grains, the total estimated value of all production for the year 1926 was $268,912,269, exceeding the previous year's large total of $257,594,618. These are large sums to be distributed among a relatively small population in the course of two years. The result is already noticeable not only in the farming communities, but also in the whole business fabric of the Province.

PROGRESS OF DAIRY INDUSTRY

The dairy business of the Province showed a slight increase in production over the previous year, and the estimated value of all milk and milk products was practically $22,000,000. Figures are given in the following table of the number of butter factories operated in the Province for the past five years, the combined butter production in pounds, and the selling value of the butter:

Year	Creameries	Lbs. of Butter	Selling Value	C. per lb.
1922	54	15,417,070	$5,126,843	(33.25)
1923	75	17,808,853	5,891,186	(32.97)
1924	90	22,338,857	7,059,630	(31.60)
1925	96	19,630,101	6,959,058	(35.45)
1926	90	20,000,000	Est. 6,600,000	(33.00)

The prices of dairy products were slightly lower than during 1925, particularly perhaps, creamery butter and factory cheese, the products most directly affected by world market conditions. There was an abnormally high market level in the latter half of 1925, due to the seamen's strike in New Zealand and Australia. The average price of Alberta creamery butter in 1925 was 35.45 cents per pound at the factory, whereas, in 1926 the figure will be around 33 cents per pound, or a decrease of about 7 per cent.

Although there was a comparatively small quantity of our creamery butter exported to Great Britain during 1926, the somewhat unusual market conditions there had a depressing effect on prices—a condition which was reflected in practically all other markets, including our home markets. These conditions were caused by heavy accumulations of butter of the 1925 season's production, following the settlement of the seamen's strike, and impaired purchasing power due to the serious coal miners' strike and general paralysis of industry during the greater part of the year.

From a statistical point of view the cheese industry is marking time. The number of factories in operation and the figures for production and value are given in the following table, for a five-year period:

Year	Factories	Lbs. of Cheese	Selling Value	C. per lb.
1922	34	921,952	$182,980	(19.73)
1923	33	1,365,698	248,771	(18.16)
1924	32	1,714,730	278,478	(16.24)
1925	32	1,473,835	305,802	(20.80)
1926	35	1,360,000	Est. 249,760	(18.4)

ONE OUTSTANDING EVENT OF YEAR

One of the outstanding events in the dairy industry organization of the Province was the entry of the Provincial Dairy Pool into the field of dairy factory operations. It is confidently expected that the various associations of dairy producers now in the field, will, through their central management and local units make an important contribution towards the further development of a successful dairy industry in Alberta.

Exhibitors of Alberta creamery butter were again prominent among the prize winners in the butter classes at the large Canadian exhibitions in 1926, when exhibits of Alberta butter won 312 prizes out of 1068 offered, in competition with creamery butter exhibits from the other Provinces of the Dominion—a total of 79 first, 120 second, and 103 third prizes were awarded to exhibitors from Alberta creameries.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES

When we turn our attention to livestock we find that cattle prices have not yet improved to the point that would make this the profitable business it once was. It would appear, however, that with more favorable ocean freight rates assured, we may anticipate a higher price level this year. On the other hand sheep and hog raising has been extensively carried on and has been very profitable. Horses of the heavy and general purpose kinds are finding a more ready market with prospects of continued improvement.

Although it is generally conceded that 1926 was a year of lower productions in the poultry industry, the volume of business transacted by the Marketing Service shows a substantial increase over that of 1925 or of any year since the peak in 1923, as the following total will illustrate:

	Eggs (dozens)	Poultry (Lbs.)	Total (Cars)
1917	13,000		1
1918	337,000	19,000	14
1919	77,000	78,000	11
1920	168,000	128,000	19
1921	179,000	245,000	25
1922	435,000	657,000	66
1923	469,523	825,000	110
1924	235,000	750,798	60
1925	316,588	838,708	98
1926	352,619	996,969	102

Price levels were on the whole well maintained particularly in regard to turkeys, which netted the producers higher prices than have ever been paid in Alberta. The Marketing Service is undoubtedly a factor in maintaining these prices. Some 16 carloads of eggs and 16 carloads of dressed turkeys were exported from the Province during the season, and the elimination of these surpluses from the markets of Alberta unquestionably had their effect in maintaining prices.

A considerable proportion of the total volume is now handled for the Pool. This has entailed some reorganization in the Marketing Service with a view of placing it on such a basis that it may be absorbed by the Pool whenever conditions warrant.

Service rendered to the public has been enlarged in some important particulars. Live poultry cars were loaded at 86 points within the Province, and community turkey kills and assemblies were conducted at 17 points.

SUGAR BEET CULTURE NO LONGER EXPERIMENTAL

The second year of the operation of the Canadian Sugar Factories Limited, at Raymond, Alberta, is of interest, since the year has been a successful one financially for both the farmers and the company. While the acreage planted and the amount of beets harvested were approximately the same or slightly less than the previous year, the sugar content of beets was higher, being 16.49 per cent. in 1926 as against 14.41 per cent. in 1925. The total sugar production in 1926 was 97,000 bags as against 75,000 bags in the initial year of this industry. This would appear to be entirely due to the increased sugar content of the beets, the weather conditions evidently being favorable for the proper ripening of the crop.

Sugar-beet culture is now safely beyond the experimental stage in Southern Alberta, and should prove a valuable adjunct to irrigation farming.

The following figures are of interest:

	1926	1925
Acres planted	6,649	6,437
Acres harvested	5,334	5,186
Acres lost	1,315	1,251
Total tons harvested	41,455	37,240
Tonnage per acre harvested	7.80	7.20
Sugar content of beets	16.49	14.41
Total sugar production, bags	97,000	75,000

In 1925 the growers were paid $6.50 per ton for their beets. In 1926 they have already received $6.75 per ton with a prospect of 50c more on the final payment, so that they should net $1.35 more per ton than in 1925. This is due chiefly to increase in sugar content, but also in part to an increase in the price of sugar.

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION INCREASES

The mineral production of the Province continues to show increased value, and again Alberta leads all Canada in the production of coal, crude oil and natural gas. Since our last statement new producing wells have "come in" in the Turner Valley district and the production of petrol has thereby been greatly increased. When these four wells now producing have developed sufficiently, and provision is made for taking care of the production, the output will be in the vicinity of one thousand barrels per day. One remarkable feature connected with the production of wet gas in this field is that so far there seems to be no diminution in the flow. One Alberta well still holds the world's record for daily rate of production of naptha, and this of such a concentrated quality that it requires to be diluted

before it is suitable for commercial purposes.

The total amount of mineral products in the Province for the year 1926 was valued at $26,681,641, exceeding that of 1925 by $1,362,775.

Mr. Reid at this point quoted from a table showing that natural gas production in 1925, in cubic feet, was 9,119,500, valued at $2,752,545; whereas in 1926 the total had increased to 10,418,097, valued at $3,041,108. Petroleum production increased from 185,491 barrels valued at $545,394 in 1925 to 217,088 barrels valued at $906,968 in 1926. Coal production increased from 5,969,031 tons in 1925, valued at $20,021,484, to 6,499,531 tons valued at $20,870,186 in 1926. Bituminous sands marketed in 1925, totalled 1,148 valued at $4,594, as compared with 528 tons, valued at $2,112 in 1926. Salt production was 833 tons valued at $8,364 in 1925 and 2,037 tons valued at $22,696 in 1926. Cement production in 1925 was valued at $912,529, and in 1926 the production was 422,766 tons, valued at $975,621. Clay products in 1925 were valued at $616,560 and in 1926 at $804,952.1

The Minister said, continuing:

1,325,290 tons of coal were sold for consumption in Alberta, 127,858 tons in British Columbia, 1,296,181 tons in Saskatchewan, 591,267 tons in Manitoba, 74,559 tons in Ontario, 221 tons in Quebec and 48,216 tons in the United States.

There were two shale mines and 341 coal mines in operation during the year 1926, of which 30 were opened, 8 reopened and 42 abandoned. In addition to the mines abandoned, 44 were closed temporarily, leaving 278 mines in operation at December 31st, 1926.

TOURISTS SPENT THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS

As a direct result of the highway development in the last five years, there has taken place an enormous increase in tourist traffic. Larger numbers of motor vehicles from the United States are coming into the Province every year. In addition to the contribution that is made to the revenues of the Province, by way of gasoline tax, it has been estimated that last year thirty million dollars was spent in the Province by tourists. This large additional amount of money coming into the business channels of the Province must have the effect of materially improving business conditions.

There is also the benefit of the free advertising secured when these people return to their homes.

PROVINCIAL FINANCES

Coming to the purely financial portion of our statement, you have already been furnished with most of the details.

Public Accounts of the Province for the year 1926 show a surplus of ordinary revenue over expenditures as already announced of $17,800.53.

The surplus estimated at the beginning of last year was $21,989.46, so that the actual results are $4,188.93 less than estimated. On the basis of accounting methods in force up to the end of 1923, the surplus for the year would have been $220,942.10.

Revenue on Income Account for 1926 was $11,912,129.27 against an estimated revenue of $11,699,352.59, showing an excess of $212,275.68 over what we expected.

Expenditure amounted to $11,694,327.74 against the estimate of $11,477,862.93, an increase of $216,464.81.

THE NET OVER-EXPENDITURE

On the Estimate of expenditure submitted to the Legislature at its last Session, there was a net over-expenditure amounting to $216,464.81. This may be summarized as follows:

	Balance Legislative Appropriations	Additional Expenditure under Special Warrants	Net under or over * Expenditure
Public Debt	$ 2,139.05	$356,224.39	$354,085.34
Executive Council	3,284.14	17,476.29	14,192.15
Legislation	2,667.44	.....	2,667.44*
Agriculture Department	10,295.50	20,872.19	10,576.69
Attorney General's Dept.	232.64	46,378.99	46,146.35
Education Dept.	18,705.35	.....	18,705.35*
Municipal Affairs Dept.	16,848.71	.....	16,848.71*
Provincial Secretary's Dept.	.....	37.34	37.34
Public Health Dept.	23,379.53	18,562.16	4,817.37
Public Works Dept.	20,164.30	85,938.81	65,136.51
Railways Branch	269.40	447.28	75.88
Treasury Dept.	17,434.67	22,219.67	4,785.00*
	$135,130.71	$643,659.52	508,494.81

Expenditure under special warrants, unforeseen at the time the Estimates were passed by the Legislature, consists principally of interest on Debenture Debt and Savings Certificates; expenditure incurred through moving settlers from dry areas; increased expenditure under the Mothers' Allowance Act; grants to hospitals; Unemployment Relief; expenditure on ferries and highways, and sundry other charges set forth in detail in the Public Accounts.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S REVENUE

The actual results show an increase over the Estimates by $212,275.68, summarized as follows:

Particulars	In Excess of Estimates	Less than Estimates.
Dominion of Canada	$ 89,568.36	$
Agriculture Dept.		51,680.71
Attorney Gen'n Dept.	102,704.64	
Education Dept.	24,521.94	
Executive Council	3,773.44	
Legislation		700.31
Municipal Affairs Dept.		177,253.63
Prov. Sec'y Dept.	173,904.86	
Public Health Dept.		36,470.50
Public Works Dept.		34,224.96
Railways Branch		305.61
Treasury Dept.	34,149.03	
	$412,275.68 (net)	

Revenue received from the Dominion of Canada in connection with the interest on School Lands funds shows an increase over the estimates of $89,568.36; miscellaneous revenues of the Department of Agriculture decreased by $51,680.71; liquor profits realized $211,332.61 in excess of the estimates, but Succession Duties fell short by $76,268.75.

The increase in revenue of the Department of Education was due to the additional amount received from the Dominion Government in connection with technical education.

Municipal Affairs revenue decreased by $177,253.63 through the decrease in wild lands and supplementary revenue taxes.

Automobile licenses, etc., accounted for the substantial increase in the revenue of the Provincial Secretary's Department. Amusement taxes were $21,191.55 short of the amount shown in the estimates.

Revenue of the Public Health and Public Works Departments was short of the estimates by $23,470.08 and $34,224.93 respectively, through the decrease in institutional revenues.

The increased revenue of the Treasury Department is due to interest and profits on investments.

CASH SURPLUS AND TRUE SURPLUS

Accounts payable at December 31st, 1925, were charged to the expenditure of that year. They amounted to $1,327,541.12 as compared with $1,238,269.55 at the end of the year 1925. By providing for these accounts the cash surplus, $220,942.10 was reduced to the true surplus of $17,800.53.

Revenue collected in 1926 in respect of 1927 business amounted to $430,274.08 and was excluded from the 1926 accounts.

During the past fiscal year certain changes were made in the method of compiling the Public Accounts of the Province with the object of giving more information regarding departmental expenditures. Under the new plan, the accounts show, for the Government as a whole, and for each department of the Government, a complete summary of expenditure by appropriations, and the distribution of such expenditure under suitable headings. The information thus presented should prove of considerable value to the members of this Legislature as well as to all students of public affairs.

PUBLIC DEBT OF ALBERTA

The net bonded debt of the Province during the past year was increased by $5,005,773.79.

In the year just past, the Province negotiated the sale of $11,046,000.00 worth of bonds, of which $5,610,741.00 was for refunding purposes.

The prices received were more favorable than in any previous year since 1913, being on an average yield basis of 4.96 per cent. This year's financing promises to be still lower, our most recent issue selling on a basis of 4.87. The tendency seems to be towards still lower interest rates and I have no doubt that in a short time the Province will be able to float its debentures at a par 4½ per cent. rate. With the balance of trade so much in favor of Canada, and the immense value of our exports in comparison with the relatively small population of the Dominion, there is bound to be an increasing amount of Canadian money available for investment. This will inevitably result in our being able to find funds within Canada

NEWS FROM THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL HEAD OFFICE

WHEAT POOL MEETINGS

News and Views of the Wheat Pool

Flashes From Radio Speech of President Canadian Wheat Pool

Important Figures
E.D. & B.C. Railway

Comparison between [illegible] of [illegible] Tariff Drawings

The U.F.W.A. and Junior Branch

The Terrible Extravagance of the Farm People!

...n last year and to the two nominating conventions. We subscribed to the local fair funds and to the U. F. A. Crest fund, and sent a parcel of clothing to Sunshine.

"During the year we enjoyed papers on gardening and home nursing by Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Weber, and Mrs. C. Wood gave a demonstration of raffia work."

RAYMOND U. F. W. A. HAS 32 MEMBERS

Raymond U. F. W. A. recently enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Carlson, constituency director, the occasion being a meeting and social in the home of Mrs. King. This Local has now 32 members.

ENDED YEAR WITH GOOD CASH BALANCE

Berrywater U. F. W. A. concluded a very successful year with a cash balance of $106.35. Although only nineteen in number, over $90 was contributed to needy institutions and other causes. The program is now being arranged for the present year, which the members expect to be the best yet.

OFFICERS PEMBINA LOCAL

Officers of Pembina U.F.A. Local for 1927 are: W. E. Green, president; Mrs. E. M. Belley, vice-president, and J. Barker, secretary.

TOWNS AND VILLAGE ACTS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page 5)

in Canada, and several members could see no reason why this exemption was confined to Canadian only. Mr. Gilbo, Edmonton, moved that the words "published in Canada" should be struck out. After some discussion the motion carried.

Another little flurry arose over the requirement that the official records of the town council shall be kept "in the English language," and again Mr. Giroux wanted to know why the French language, which was an official Canadian language, should be barred to such towns as happened to be so situated that French was the general language.

The Minister pointed out that he was saddled with the responsibility of supervision, and while there were some members of the Department who could use both languages, there were only three inspectors, and it was imperative that the work of inspection be facilitated. There was no objection to the keeping of the records in French, provided that one copy be also furnished in English. All the business transactions carried on by the council would be dealt with in these records, and it was therefore necessary that the inspectors be able to efficiently scrutinize them in English. The clause was held over for consideration.

In reply to C. Y. Weaver, Edmonton (Conservative), the Minister said that no representations had been made by any municipality with regard to the clauses giving the telephones and telegraphs department power to construct and maintain their lines through the town.

Clauses of a peculiar nature were added to the Village Act, but were held over for full consideration by the legal officers of the Government. It was held that such clauses might be ultra vires of the Province. The clauses were as follows:

The council may pass a bylaw regulating the rate of speed of railway trains, engines, cars and tramways along or across any of the streets, lanes or avenues of the town and preventing the obstruction of any streets, lanes or avenues by leaving, keeping or allowing to stand thereon any engine, train, car or cars, or truck for a longer period than five minutes at a time and preventing the loading or unloading of any car or truck alongside or from any street crossing or sidewalk in the town and blowing whistles or ringing of bells while the engine is going along or across any street, lane or avenue except under conditions mentioned in such bylaw and imposing a penalty for breach of such bylaw of not more than five hundred dollars.

In any proceedings taken for infraction of bylaws passed under the preceding section, service of necessary documents upon any resident employee of the railroad shall be good service upon the owners of the railroad, and any of the persons in charge of the engine, car, truck or train as well as the railroad company shall be liable for the penalty provided in the bylaw and proceedings may be taken against any of them.

Shaw Opens Criticism of Budget---U.F.A. Members Reply

Shield of Mackeed in Able Analysis Shows Causes of Increase in Public Debt—Shaw Amendment Wins Only Four Votes

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 17.—Charging that the Government of the day in the Province of Alberta, in spite of expanding and increasing revenue, had failed to provide for reduction in taxation, but had rather indicated tax increases, Captain Joseph T. Shaw, Liberal leader, led off the grand march of the opposition terpsichoreans in the annual dance around the budget in the legislative halls today.

Mr. Shaw ridiculed the idea of a surplus either this year or last, stating that the claim to that effect was "a sham and a delusion." He came to this conclusion by the same means as his predecessor, the argument that a Dominion subvention for highways had been placed in income account instead of in capital.

Mr. Shaw made numerous comparisons between the different Provinces to show that Alberta was second highest with regard to the per capita amount of public debt. "For every man, woman and child in Alberta, the public debt amounts to 6.69; in Saskatchewan, 1.43; in Manitoba, 4.14 and in British Columbia (the highest) 8.10," he contended. With reference to the reduction of this indebtedness he said this Province stood alone in the very unenviable position of having made no effort in that direction.

At the conclusion of his speech Mr. Shaw moved an amendment, which was voted on after three other speakers had participated, being rejected by a vote of 44 to 4. Conservatives and Labor voted with the Government forces.

Mr. Shaw contended that the Provincial Treasurer's speech had shown that there had been a heavy increase in the public debt; that there had been expanding and increasing revenues; constantly rising expenditures, and no tax reduction but rather an increase. Quoting the funded and unfunded debt figures, he argued that this Province stood second with regard to the amount of per capita debt, B. C. being the exception.

CITES EXAMPLES OF OTHER PROVINCES

Mr. Shaw argued that other Provinces were reducing their expenditures and taxation, this being especially true of Saskatchewan and Ontario, the burden of taxation having been reduced by $2,400,000 in Ontario and by almost as much in our neighboring Province.

Analyzing Alberta's revenue requirements over a term of years, Mr. Shaw said that the total was $8,486,000 in 1921; $9,324,000 in 1922; $10,415,000 in 1923; $11,530,000 in 1925; $11,912,000 in 1926 and $12,500,000 in 1927. He considered this constant increase alarming. For each dollar of revenue taken in, 25 cents went for public debt; 18.35 cents went for education; 14.66 cents went for legislation, etc.; 8.38 cents for administration of justice; 5.00 cents for agriculture and such work; 12 cents for public health, and 4.53 cents for highways, in round figures.

The Liberal leader said that the taxation dollar was made up of 20.5 from the Dominion; 42.83 from taxation; 10.54 from fines and licenses; 19.26 from miscellaneous, and 16.29 from liquor profits.

The only three Departments in the Government to show a decrease in expenditure this year, Mr. Shaw noted, were Railways, Treasury and Public Works, a total decrease of $16,000 being estimated. Against this the Department of Agriculture, Attorney-General, Education, Municipal Affairs, Provincial Secretary and Public Health were to require $227,000 more than last year. In Saskatchewan the great bulk of the annual revenue went for the promotion of the fundamental public services, 36 cents of every dollar raised being devoted to education, whereas in Alberta only 18 cents was granted. This meant that Calgary, for instance, received only five cents from the Government for every dollar raised by the city for secondary education, while Regina and Saskatoon received 25 to 28 cents on the local dollar from the Province. Nor did Saskatchewan have an amusement or gasoline tax. Manitoba, too, had made substantial tax cuts.

DESCRIBES SURPLUS AS "SHAM"

The pre-election surplus of the Alberta Government, Mr. Shaw declared, vehemently, was very clearly a sham. The Dominion highways subvention was turned into general revenue account instead of capital account, "merely as a pre-election dodge." Nor would 1927 give an honest surplus because deferred revenues amounting to $431,000 were being used to provide this surplus, as was a sum of $66,458.73 on monies earned in previous years, but carried into 1927. When Hon. Mr. Reid declared the decrease in supplementary taxation was $200,000 this year, Mr. Shaw said that the actual deficit for this year would be far in excess of the $26,000 surplus which was forecasted.

"If there was a real surplus why not a tax reduction like the Dominion Government carried into effect when it had a surplus?" asked Mr. Shaw. "Why is it necessary to expand the revenue by heavier and new taxation? I make

these observations for no idle purpose, but to endeavor in some way to impress upon this Government the urgent need of cutting down the cost of administration in this Province."

Not only other governments in Canada, but municipal government in Alberta had been able to curb the growing tax load. Mr. Shaw cited the case of Calgary as an example, where rigid measures proved effective.

"I cannot but believe that the Government of the Province fails to realize the benefits to industry and general production which would follow a serious attempt to reduce the demand for taxation which the people have responded generously to in the past," said Mr. Shaw, in conclusion, after which he moved the following amendment:

"Whereas the financial statements presented show rapidly expanding revenues derived from taxation, and indicate governmental expenditures mounting from year to year, and in addition show an alarming increase in the public debt;

"And whereas existing conditions clearly indicate the urgent necessity for substantial reductions in provincial taxation,

"This house regrets that the financial statements presented fail to disclose evidence of any economies necessary to make such tax reductions possible, and likewise fail to indicate any government policy designed to secure and promote economy in administration and thereby relieve the burden of taxation in this Province."

MATHESON CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

A. M. Matheson, Vegreville (U.F.A.) deplored destructive criticism. It would have been better, he contended, if constructive suggestions had been offered. It did not matter to him whether money was taken out of one pocket and placed in another. What did matter was how to get rid of the awful burden of debt. This could only be done by natural increase in revenue, increased taxation, or decreased services. The latter was out of the question, and the second undesirable. The larger percentage of the debt burden was uncontrollable, and a good many grants for such services as education had doubled, even trebled since 1918. The railways were an almost unbearable burden, and he assured the Assembly that he for one would welcome the customer hinted at by the leader of the Conservative party recently.

John Irwin, Calgary (Cons.), made his contribution briefly and forcibly with the suggestion that immigration be encouraged and that definite aid in the shape of assistance to settlers in the matter of investment in land for homemaking be given. This assistance was not financial but of an advisory nature.

A LONG PLEA FOR SHORT SPEECHES

A. G. Andrews, Sedgewick (U. F. A.), also took part in the debate, as did M. J. Connor, Warner (U. F. A.). The latter made a plea for short speeches, and then held the floor for forty-five minutes in detailing the conditions of the farmers in the southern area. Mr. Connor complimented the Government on the work of the Debt Adjustment Bureau, and advocated the same treatment of the southern farmers as was accorded those in the East area. He thought that the funding of taxes and the re-adjustment of seed grain relief and long term loans was necessary, with careful supervision.

He also spoke on immigration, climatic conditions, the possibilities of the south east, and the conservation of oil.

A. G. Andrews, Sedgewick (U. F. A.), offered a number of constructive suggestions with regard to the problems facing the people of the Province. He deplored the fact that it took one-third of the annual revenue to meet the fixed charges on the public debt, and said that while it was necessary and proper for a young Province to borrow capital to build up its services, any business, whether farming, manufacturing or the administration of public affairs which was saddled with debt was hampered in its operation and progress.

In reply to the question as to what could be done to remedy the situation, Mr. Andrews said that the answer was to increase the population and thereby increase revenue. The action of the Government in opening an immigration office in London was commendable and justifiable. It was just as necessary to see that newcomers were properly established as it was to obtain them. Not only should the bringing of land under settlement be attempted but attention should also be given to industrial development.

RESOURCES OF THE PROVINCE

There was in this Province an Industrial Research Council which had been doing splendid work along the lines of industrial investigation. We had also a trade commissioner, who was doing very important work in trying to obtain markets for coal as well as investigating the possibility of the establishment of industries. Power was the chief requisite for the development of the tremendous resources at disposal of this Province. With the vast resources of coal and water there was no reason why raw material could not be brought here for manufacture, the raw silk read about in the press which was said to be speeding east could just as well be unloaded at Edmonton and manufactured here. The great increase of the wool growing industry, the development of the process whereby paper can be made from straw, would provide manufacturing opportunities in the future. The latter would employ more labor, provide the farmer with a market for waste product, help develop the salt industry as great quantities were used in the paper making process, and the development for the same purpose of the sodium sulphite lakes, and the material consumption of coal.

The tar sands, hemp for binder twine, were other possibilities, while by-products from the coal supplies would be a profitable source of business. "I want to impress upon the members of this Legislature," went on Mr. Andrews, "how vital and important it is that we should think over very seriously the possibilities of industries, and do something worth while to help in establishing them."

Much harm had been done, Mr. Andrews contended, by people in the old country being persuaded to invest their money in fictitious townsites and doubtful ventures, and he counselled the use of Mr. Greenfield's services to combat this harmful practice and tell the truth about Alberta investments. Mr. Andrews was also in favor of larger school units, such as the municipal school district, as the means whereby rural children would receive a better education.

SHIELD SHOWS CAUSES OF DEBT INCREASE

W. H. Shield, Macleod, at the evening session, analysed the statements of the Liberal leader. While Mr. Shaw had contended that the administration of this Province compared unfavorably with that of other Provinces, especially Saskatchewan, Mr. Shield did not think that that comparison had been fair, as the leader had not attempted to analyse causes. What were the underlying causes of the increase in the public debt? The railways, irrigation and other projects had been the direct contributory causes. The Province had entered the year 1917 with a deficit in revenue of $779,018 on the previous year's budget. In the years intervening between 1917 and the end of 1921 expenditure increased by $4,500,000 yearly, while revenue only increased by $3,500,000. The amount added to the public debt during these five years totalled $28,831,666, despite the fact that three of these were war years when borrowing almost ceased except for war purposes. In addition, the net indirect liability of the Province was increased by $11,214,517, on the greatest part of which the Province is now carrying the interest charges.

During the five years of this present administration a net reduction has been made in indirect liabilities of $4,759,320. "These are the reasons why it has been necessary to add the amount of $2,525,163 to revenue collections of 1923 as compared with the revenue of 1920," said Mr. Shield. "Of this net sum $2,233,492 has been required to meet the increase in public debt charges, the increase in 1920 and 1921 borrowings taking $1,400,000 of this amount."

Mr. Shield analysed the revenue and public debt charges of Alberta and Saskatchewan in the years 1920 to 1926. In 1920, revenue in Saskatchewan was $9,903,885, and in 1926 $13,317,398, an increase of $3,403,513; in the same period public debt charges increased from $1,638,296 to $2,379,318.61, an increase of $741,022. In Alberta in 1920, income revenue was $9,005,862, and in 1926 $11,912,128, an increase of $2,906,266. Public debt charges were $1,630,215 and in 1926 $4,236,337, an increase of $2,556,122. Capital charges incurred in 1920 and 1921 were responsible for $1,409,752 of that increase, while expenditures of 1922-23-24-25 accounted for $1,146,369, the increase of the five years amounting to only $150,000 more than in the years 1920 and 1921. Ordinary income expenditure in 1921 amounted to $8,502,998, while in 1926 it was $7,675,791, a reduction of $827,207.

CHARGES DUE TO COMMITMENTS OF 1920-21

Thus it would be seen that while Saskatchewan's revenue increased by $3,403,513, her public debt charges only increased $741,022, leaving that Province $2,662,491 to devote to public services. In Alberta, however, while her income revenue had increased $2,906,266 her public debt on account of the commitments of 1920-21 had also increased $2,556,122, leaving only the small sum of $350,144 for public services. "To put it another way," said Mr. Shield, "Saskatchewan spends 17.86 cents out of

...ery dollar of revenue on her public debt, while Alberta had to spend 35.56. ...d with regard to expenditure, 18.09 ...of every dollar of expenditure in Saskatchewan went to public debt, while of the total expenditures in Alberta, 35.61 was accounted for by public debt.

Mr. Shaw had quoted figures from the budget schedule of Saskatchewan in making comparisons between the income derived from taxation in that Province and Alberta. He had given the percentage for Saskatchewan at 18.08 and that for Alberta as 56 per cent. Mr. Shield, using the same schedule, made the percentage for Alberta 71.6, and he wondered how Mr. Shaw had arrived at his figures. Alberta only had three sources of income untapped by Saskatchewan—gasoline, amusement and increment.

Mr Shaw had also affirmed that the balancing of Alberta's budget was fictitious. While in all Parliaments this subject was a prolific source of debate, Mr Shield argued that judged by the standard of bookkeeping practised since Alberta was a Province this Government had not only balanced its budget but had provided out of income the sum of $150,000 of expenditure which up until 1921 had been charged to capital.

Summing up, the member for Macleod said that the railway burden was by far the Province's heaviest commitment, amounting to $35,000,000, on which interest charges had to be found as well as deficits on operation. "No government," he contended, "no matter from which side of the Assembly it should be selected, could escape the responsibility of providing for these charges. I say, therefore, that the Government which solves the railway problem will also solve the financial problem, but it is certain that no Government will solve the financial problem unless and until it solves the railway problem." Mr Shield quoted further figures to show that Alberta compared not favorably with other Provinces in the matter of sinking funds.

CALGARY ALDERMAN DENIES SHAW'S CLAIMS

Ald. R. H. Parkyn, Calgary (Labor), rose to flatly deny the statement that the city council of Calgary had made such successful efforts at retrenchment and that there had been no complaints about the services of public utilities made by Mr. Shaw in the afternoon. He challenged the Liberal leader to say that in the districts where workers in Calgary resided, and promised that he would find out a few things if he did so. The Labor alderman then detailed services which he claimed were not satisfactory in Calgary from the viewpoint of Labor. Purchasing power, not economy was needed. Concluding a brief speech, he said that if it was necessary to curtail services like that of workmen's compensation for instance in order to have a balanced budget, he thought the budget should be allowed to go.

Col. Weaver, Edmonton (Cons.), said he could not support a reduction in taxation as long as the public debt was increasing. The proper thing to do was to begin at the other end and practice economy. There should be no expenditure unless fully warranted. Edmonton had successfully concentrated on the question of sinking funds, and he urged that policy on the Government.

Hoadley Presents Facts and Figures on Public Finances

Hugh Allen of Peace River Urges Necessity for Railway Extensions in the North

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 18.—Debate on the budget has developed into a battle of percentages, in which the law of attrition is bound to get in its work sooner or later. Already it has been proved conclusively that the figures given yesterday were miles out. No doubt by Monday those of today will be declared to be hopelessly inadequate, and the question will be whether the laws of computation or the computators will be first to hit the mat.

George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture and Health, led the field at three o'clock. Mr. Hoadley was mild—very mild—he said so. He himself wondered why, with all the provocation received, he didn't jump right in and crack his opponents' heads together. But he said that as Minister of Health it was in the province of his Department to administer charitable institutions, and he was going for this time to extend the principle of charity to all.

ALLEN URGES E. D. & B. C. EXTENSIONS

Hugh Allen, Peace River (U. F. A.), dealt with the northern railway situation, a subject near to his heart. "I think," he said, "the Government will make a serious mistake if they do not go on with the suggested extensions to the E. D. & B. C. and Central Canada railways. Apart from the consideration of whether finances would be better this year or next I contend that in view of the fact that the attention of the agricultural and urban population of the North American continent has been focussed on the Peace River during the last few months, now is the psychological moment to settle up Peace River. Undoubtedly that settlement will go on under any circumstances, but I hope the Government will not fail to grasp a great opportunity to not only accelerate settlement but also to assist in the final solution of the railway problems."

DUGGAN ON YEARS OF LIBERAL BLUNDERING

D. M. Duggan, Edmonton (Cons.), participated in the contest of comparisons. He was not a bit complimentary to his Liberal friends, having noted that the speeches of members were mild in criticism of the past. "If we are going to assess responsibility for the straitened financial position of the Province, then we will have to place that responsibility where it belongs," he said, stating the Liberals for what he termed mismanagement and disregard of all business principles. "These are the factors," he continued, "and it is no use to shut our eyes, for these years of Liberal blundering will stand out in the pages of history of this Province for all time."

HOADLEY REGRETS LACK OF LIBERAL SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Hoadley said he had lived in hope that the Liberal leader would have something to suggest in the way of remedy for the financial betterment of the Province, but he was disappointed to find nothing different from the old party comment of former days. The Minister wondered how many people were seized with the situation in a large part of the Province, the dry area, where a condition existed which had had a tremendous influence on the standing of the Province financially. The total debt for seed grain and relief amounted to $3,561,606.95, including interest.

Mr. Hoadley praised the splendid work of the Debt Adjustment Bureau, which had passed through its hands a total during 1925 and 1926 business aggregating $265,432. He read letters of approval from individuals receiving the services of the bureau, as well as corporations and banks.

In Mr. Shaw's comparisons of the sister Province of Saskatchewan and those of Alberta, the Minister stated that the question of obligations could not be avoided, and for that reason comparisons based on an inclusion of the commitments for utilities in one Province only could not show a fair per capita comparison as Saskatchewan had no railway problem and only a small investment in telephones. The total bonded debt of the Province of Saskatchewan was $37,114,000, a per capita of $75; Alberta bonded debt, $81,469,000, per capita $133.90. Deducting the telephone debt of both Provinces the per capita was: Saskatchewan 61.5; Alberta 102.2. Deducting the railway commitments brought the net debt down to a per capita of $1.5 for Saskatchewan and 72.2 for Alberta. The population of Saskatchewan was 761,000 and that of Alberta 608,000, and the Minister contended that if we had the same population as Saskatchewan with our debt, less our railways and telephones, we would have a per capita of 57.58.

"It might be asked," said the Minister, "by what right we take away the railways and telephones from the comparisons, and we answer: because the responsibility for the commitments to these utilities does not lie at the door

"OUR BEST" Gopher Poison

The following is an actual occurrence, Dates, Names and Location on request:

"We took a can of 'Our Best' Gopher Poison and mixed it according to directions.

"Two of us then took this grain and walked around the land placing a few grains wherever we thought were likely places, such as holes, etc.

"In the first hour we counted 120 Dead Gophers.

"It was a revelation to us how quick your poison acted, the Gopher no sooner had the grain in his mouth than he tumbled over dead."

SOLE AGENTS FOR ALBERTA

United Grain Growers Limited

CALGARY EDMONTON

of this Government, and whether the original intention of the promoters was good or bad from the standpoint of the railways alone, the situation was such that if the debt was calculated outside these two charges on which the Government repudiated responsibility it would be found that this Government is in as good a position as that of Saskatchewan."

The railways were not the only contributory causes of the financial difficulty. The Cow Bill was responsible for $1,000,000 and the Lethbridge Northern, $1,500,000, and any comparison without considering services was of no effect. One dollar in every three received was already spoken for in regard to Alberta's debt, whereas Saskatchewan had the full 100 per cent. to carry on administrative functions. Saskatchewan's rural population was compared with that of Alberta, and their agricultural wealth contrasted, showing a bare difference of $734,846 in favor of the former. "In view of the growing development of the Province and the need for unity, I would counsel the member for Bow Valley not to say anything for political reasons which would damn the Province we live in and love," said the Minister.

DUNNING'S AND GARDINER'S IDEAS CONFLICT

Charles Dunning, former Premier of Saskatchewan, had stated in a speech at Regina, referring to the financial position of the Province of Saskatchewan, that the trend of expenditures was upwards while the trend of revenue on land and property values was stationary, and that if difficulty in the future was to be avoided an early revision of taxation would be necessary. Apparently, said the Minister, Premier Gardiner's views do not coincide with Mr. Dunning's. He considered the former's ideas about tax reductions as merely a political gesture.

With regard to the question: "Where does the dollar come from?" Mr. Hoadley analysed the percentages of the two Provinces. Saskatchewan received 24.87 from the Dominion, while the people contributed 61.28. In Alberta the Dominion contributed 20.055 and the people 53.979. Saskatchewan made up the rest from liquor, while Alberta's balance was also accounted for by liquor (14.297) and miscellaneous, 10.269. Comparing Alberta's revenue from taxation with the other Provinces, Mr. Hoadley gave the result as Alberta, 44.9; Ontario, 37.4; Manitoba, 56.2; and Saskatchewan, 51.5, and stated that these were statistical facts published by the Dominion Bureau. The actual per capita of the Provinces was placed at Manitoba, 8.19; Ontario, 6.97; Saskatchewan, 7.87; and Alberta, 7.23. Increases of taxation in the Provinces were. 1925: Ontario, 1.56; B. C., 1.18; Manitoba, 1.09; Saskatchewan, .70; and Alberta, .51. Provincial taxation on real property was Manitoba 2.43; Saskatchewan, 4.06; Alberta, 3.85; and B. C., 4.98.

After quoting from the public accounts for 1926, going over the expenditures of the different Departments, contrasting them with those of Saskatchewan, Mr. Hoadley threw his spectacles on the desk, exclaiming—"There are the figures, Mr. Speaker, all of which are in favor of the Province of Alberta."

Mr. Hoadley then dealt with immigration, accepting the suggestions offered in a kindly manner by Mr. Irwin, Calgary, the Minister stating that he had had those very ideas under consideration for a matter of two years, and he produced a copy of a questionnaire of the type suggested. He stated that an arrangement had been attempted with the Dominion Settlement Board, which might materialize. He further said it was the intention of the Department in any immigration work necessary to get as near as possible to the man who had land to sell and thus avoid the speculative element as much as possible. He was not condemning the real estate dealer who worked on commission, but there were some who secured financial interest in land for the purpose of resale, and the Minister did not think it right to load the settler up with a burden of impossible commitments.

The Minister had no apology to offer for the increase of the estimates covering his own Departments, and having enumerated them item by item claimed that they were fully justified.

REGRETS NO EXTENSIONS FOR NORTHERN RAILWAYS

Hugh Allen, Peace River, regretted that the estimates gave no promise of extensions to the northern railways. He questioned the wisdom of this, as there would be considerable expenditures necessary in any case for reconditioning. Some parts of the line had been buried and had had to be resurrected. He realized the burden of debt due to the railways, but reminded the Assembly that some parts of the lines had been profitable and were becoming more so. The extreme ends of the lines were the parts where traffic was heavy, and the extensions suggested ran into the finest part of the whole country from a productive basis.

The only alternative to sale as a solution of the problem was a natural increase of traffic, and no amount of skilful management nor careful financing could bring them to the point where they would meet the capital charges, which was $795,000 a year. Only volume of traffic could do that, and long distances of these roads were unproductive and had to be carried by the profitable stretches. The extensions into the profitable sections would materially assist in lifting the burden.

"Now if you leave things as they are, development will go on slowly until in the course of time the lines will stand on their own feet. On the other hand, if by building these extensions you bring into being two or three more large shipping points you will cut down that length of time to a very considerable extent," said Mr. Allen. He contended that the interest payment on the bonds at present would build thirteen miles of road, and he felt that construction of that amount of traffic producing road would compensate very soon for such expenditure.

U. F. A. GOVERNMENT ASSUMED GREAT BURDEN

D. M. Duggan, Edmonton, after referring to the far-reaching influence of a budget speech, said that he found with real regret that instead of holding down expenditures we were making a demand for additional revenue and adding another $5,000,000 to our public debt, without any evidence of a sufficient increase in population to warrant this additional burden. While there was evidence of a healthy level of business, as borne witness to by exports from Alberta to the United States, it had to be admitted by all, he contended, that we had long since passed the point where the population could stand any increase in taxation. "In reviewing the finances of this Province I think it is only fair to say that when the Government took office in 1921 they assumed a tremendous task, one which has no parallel in the history of the administration of Canadian Provincial affairs," he said.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS?

After stating the previous Liberal administration, Mr. Duggan asked what were the main problems, and could any suggestive criticism from his side, made in the interest of good government, contribute in any way to their solution. He then went on to examine the revenue and expenditures of the Province since 1915, taking that date because prior to the war all governments, including municipal, all corporations and individuals appeared to be carried away by a boom and were influenced by fictitious values. Since the war, most individuals and some governing bodies had adjusted themselves to the new condition brought about by the war, but we found, he said, that this Province had continued to impose new taxes and to spend money without regard to the ability of the people to pay. Mr. Duggan maintained that the current revenue of this Province from 1915 to 1920 had an increase of 117.32 per cent. as compared with Saskatchewan's increase, 97.09 per cent., and Manitoba's decrease of 4.4 per cent. In the same period the joint cities of Calgary and Edmonton had an increase of 1.2 per cent.

Mr. Duggan took the expenditures, this time going over the years 1906 up to the estimates for 1927. Dealing with controllable expenditures, he gave his version of the per capita costs. 1906, $6.8; 1911, $8.11; 1916, $10.09; 1921, $18.9; 1926, $19.97; and 1927 estimates, $20.5.

The per capita bonded debt, including telephones: 1911, $3.34; 1916, $17.6; 1921, $97.63; 1926, $139.02, and estimates, 1927, $149.69.

Mr. Duggan, like those who preceded him in the debate, hunted around to find out where the dollar came from. He gave a list of all the sources of new revenue which had been tapped since 1918. Fifteen of these had been offset by new expenditures, two had been partially offset, while the balance was what he termed "velvet".

The member dealt next with the consolidated surplus or deficit account, stating that if it had not been for the assistance received from the liquor business since 1919 the net deficit would have been $15,000,000. He was emphatic that if the same rate of increase in fixed charges was maintained, it would not be many years before these fixed charges would have swallowed up the total revenue, unless new taxation was added in the same ratio.

Mr. Duggan wanted a virile policy of immigration and colonization. He dealt with the sinking fund, savings certificates, stating in regard to the latter that he saw no reason for the payment of such a high rate of interest, as 4% per cent. Other Provinces were paying 3½ per cent. He adjourned the debate and will resume Monday. The Assembly thereafter dealt with a number of bills.

Market Equipment Room, Calgary